

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 EB-11 SCA-01 H-03

INR-10 DLOS-06 PRS-01 CG-00 PA-04 USIA-15 COME-00

DRC-01 /077 W

----- 112274

P R 122045Z NOV 73 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7726

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LIMA 8253/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PE

SUBJ: PERU'S TUNA FLEET

REF: LIMA 7835, 4287, STATE 128487

SUMMARY: PEPESCA MANAGEMENT CONFIRMS THAT 1000 TON PURSE
SEINER "WHITE STAR", US REGISTERED VESSEL, UNDER CONTRACT
FROM CARIBBEAN FISHING. INC., OF SAN JUAN IS FISHING
YELLOWFIN TUNA, SAYS IT WAS NOT AWARE VESSEL IS SUBJECT
TO US REGULATIONS OF NOTICE OF INTENT TO LAND FISH
IN FOREIGN PORT DURING YELLOWFIN CLOSED SEASON
OR OTHER INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS AND DECLARED ITS
DESIRE TO MEET ALL US LAWS RE YELLOWFIN TUNA OPERATIONS.
EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE RE INFORMATION
WE SHOULD PASS TO PEPESA MGT THIS SUBJECT. PEPESA
MGT. STATES THAT MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SHOW WILL BE
HELD DEC 3 AT PAITA TO CELEBRATE INAUGURATION OF OPERATIONS
FOR NEW MOTHER SHIP AND THREE 300-TON VESSELS. PEPESA ALSO
PRESENTLY SEEKING APPROVAL OF MINFISH AND MIN
FOR RELATIONS FOR REQUEST TO EMBASSY FOR FAVORABLE USG
ACTION ON OBTAINING TWO REFRIGERATION SHIPS FROM US
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"RESERVE FLEET." END SUMMARY

1. DRAWING ON STATE 128487 AND INFO OBTAINED FROM DESK OFFICER FRECHETTE RECENTLY, EMBOFF DISCUSSED AT LENGTH NOV 9 WITH BORIS BITENC MANAGER OF PEPESCA, S.A. STATE TUNA ENTERPRISE, REQUIREMENT THAT U.S. REGISTERED VESSELS FISHING FOR YELLOWFIN TUNA GIVE NOTICE OF INTENT TO LAND FISH IN FOREIGN PORT DURING YELLOWFIN CLOSED SEASON, SO THAT US FISHERY AGENT MAY INSPECT LANDINGS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CATCH IS EXCESSIVE UNDER IATTC RULES. EMBOFF NOTED THAT UNLESS WHITE STAR OPERATED IN ACCORDANCE IATTC CONSERVATIONS RULES, TUNA PRODUCED BY THEM COULD BE BARRED FROM ACCESS TO US MARKET.

2. BITENC SAID HE NOT AWARE THESE RULES, ALTHOUGH HIS COMPANY GENERALLY FOLLOWS IATTC ACTIVITIES CLOSELY AND IN FACT HAS SENT PRIVATE OBSERVOR TO INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON. BITENC SAID HE WISHES CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH EMBASSY AND USG AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY FURNISH HIM ASAP WITH SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT HOW PEPESCA AND/OR OWNER OF WHITE STAR, CARIBBEAN FISHING, INC. OF SAN JUAN, CAN COMPLY WITH IATTC REGS. WHITE STAR UNDER LONG TERM CONTRACT TO PEPESCA, IS 1000-TON PURSE SEINER WHICH BEGAN FISHING MOSTLY BLUEFIN TUNA BUT SOME YELLOWFIN (ABOUT 80 TONS) IN LATE SEPT OR EARLY OCTOBER. PRESENTLY IN DRYDOCK IN CALLAO HAVING PROPELLER REPAIRED. IT WILL PROBABLY REMAIN THERE UNTIL WEEK NOV 19.

3. BITENC REVIEWED PEPESCA TUNA PLANS, SAYING THAT AT PRESENT PEPESCA HAS BEEN ABLE PUT TOGETHER LONG-RANGE \$35 MILLION TUNA PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES FOLLOWING CRAFT: A) FIVE 1000-BOATS FROM UK, AS ORIGINALLY REPORTED LIMA 4287, AND ERRONEOUSLY REPORTED AS THREE BY TANTALEAN IN HIS OCT 24 SPEECH, LIMA 7835; B) THREE 300-TON SHIPS, CONSTRUCTED AT CHIMBOTE SHIPYARD; C) WHITE STAR; D) 5000-TON REFRIGERATION BOAT AS MOTHER SHIP, "YARDARM KNOT", WHICH PEPESCA RECEIVING RECONDITIONED FROM VAN CAMP AND WITH ALLEGED APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATE USG AGENCY, AND ASSISTANCE DANISH BANK LOAN (SEE STATE 007285).
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E) NUMEROUS RECONDITIONED EXCESS ANCHOVETA 120-150 TON TRAWLERS. BITENC SAID MINISTRY OF FISHERIES TURNED TO PEPESCA FOR DEEP-SEA TUNA AND OTHER FISHING ASSISTANCE WHEN SOVIET GOVERNMENT AID FAILED TO MATERIALIZE AND THAT CONSTRUCTION OF PEPESCA PROCESSING, FREEZING, AND STORAGE FACILITIES AT PAITA HARBOR BEGINNING THIS WEEK WITH FULL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION OF MINISTRY OF FISHERIES.

4. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION BITENC EMPHASIZED THAT PEPESCA IS ONE MEANS USG CAN USE TO DEMONSTRATE EFFICIENCY OF US PRODUCTS AND US TECHNICAL SKILLS, FACTS OF WHICH MINFISH TANTALEAN NOW FULLY AWARE. HE ADDED THAT PEPESCA PLANNING, WITH JOINT ASSIST FROM MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, TO HOLD LARGE PUBLIC CEREMONY AT PAITA ON DECEMBER 3 TO LAUNCH THREE 100-TONERS AND SHOW OFF "YARDARM KNOT" MOTHERSHIP. PRESIDENT VELASCO ALLEGEDLY WILL ATTEND AS WILL MOST GOP MINISTERS. BITENC THEN LAUNCHED INTO APPEAL FOR USG FAVORABLE USG CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST PRESENTLY BEING FORMULATED BY PEPESCA WITH CONSENT OF MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MINISTRY TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR PERMISSION TO BUY TWO US RESERVE FLEET VESSELS FOR USE AS STORAGE DEPOTS, NOT AS FISHING VESSELS, BECAUSE OF THE DEARTH OF ADEQUATE STORAGE ALONG PERUVIAN COAST. HE PREDICTED EMBASSY WILL RECEIVE REQUEST IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. EMBOFF REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD SIMILAR REQUEST HAD BEEN MADE LAST YEAR AND THAT, OF COURSE, WE WOULD FULLY REVIEW REQUEST WHEN IT RECEIVED BUT THAT HE COULD NOT COMMENT OFFICIALLY AT THIS STAGE ON LEGAL STATUS OF MOTHBALLED REFRIGERATOR SHIPS IN U.S.

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DLOS-06 PRS-01 CG-00 PA-04 USIA-15 COME-00 SCS-03

DRC-01 /077 W

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P R 122045Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7727

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 LIMA 8253/2

5. COMMENT-ACTION REQUEST. PLEASE FURNISH EMBASSY ASAP
WITH APPROPRIATE INFORMATION RE METHOD OF APPLICATION IATTC
REGULATIONS WE CAN TRANSMIT TO BITENC. IN REGARD TO PENDING
REQUEST FOR TWO REFRIGERATOR SHIPS, IT LOOKS AS THOUGH BITENC
IS ATTEMPTING TO RE-OPEN ISSUE WHICH PERUVIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON
STATED CLOSED ON FEBRUARY 16 (SEE STATE 031194). BITENC
IMPLIED THAT TANTELEAN'S ALLEGED RECOGNITION IS
BEST SOURCE FOR FISHING BOATS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
MIGHT INDUCE CHANGE IN USG ATTITUDE TOWARD
AUTHORIZATION OF MOTHBALLED RESERVE BOATS.
EMBASSY
PROPOSES AWAIT RECEIPT REQUEST BEFORE REPLYING TO
BITENC ON THIS POINT BUT WOULD, OF COURSE, APPRECIATE
DEPARTMENT VIEW ON THIS MATTER AS WELL.
BELCHER

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